

P.R.O. Region 3
A.C. 439 (2) Staines

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1954

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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee 1954

Chairman: Councillor S. B. Willerton.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. M. Justice.

Councillors:

Mrs. D. M. Benen-Stock, Mr. P. Davis, Mr. G. Frewin,
Mr. W. T. Kay, Miss M. Nixon, Mr. C. L. Pengilly,
Mr. A. F. Petrie, Miss A. Phipps, Mr. N. V. Wallage and
Mr. P. M. Wildash.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: Qualifications.

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG. 1.2.4.6

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

P. F. PACKHAM, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. 1.2.3

Sanitary Inspectors:

G. A. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG. 1.2.6.7

R. E. SMITH, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E. 1.2.3.4.5

Senior Clerk and Shorthand Typist:

MISS L. M. PERRYMAN.

Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist:

MISS J. E. LOCKYER (Resigned March, 1954).

MISS P. REEVE.

Assistant Rodent Officer:

H. A. CROUCHER.

Key to qualifications—

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.
4. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science.
5. Certificate of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.
6. Diploma of the Institute of Housing.
7. Diploma of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During 1954 the health of the population continued to be generally good, reflecting the steady improvement in social conditions arising from the high level of employment and prosperity. The incidence of infectious diseases remains at a low level and it is very satisfactory that no case of diphtheria has been notified since 1947. This is due in no small measure to the diphtheria immunisation campaign, but for continued success in the fight against this disease parents must continue to have their children protected.

The adjusted Birth Rate at 16.3 per thousand population is above that of England and Wales, while the Death Rate at 8.7 per thousand population continues its downward trend and compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate is also lower than the national figure.

During the year the Middlesex County Council sponsored a conference of representatives of the County District Councils and the County Council to exchange views and to report on local arrangements such as voluntary street wardens, by which all old folk are known to a voluntary worker. Staines Council supported this suggestion and has instituted enquiries with a view to putting this scheme into effect. Every effort should be made to help old people in their own houses by means of voluntary helpers and Home Helps. Persons willing to do shopping, change library books, make social contact, or sit or read with them are a great comfort to the less agile elderly folk.

Local authorities, hospital management committees, general practitioners and medical officers of health have all heard a great deal during the past year of lack of co-ordination between the three aspects of the health services, i.e. hospital, medical practitioner and public health services.

It is my experience that this is not the case in this area and I do appreciate the very close harmony which exists between this Department and Ashford Hospital, and equally so with the general practitioners in the area.

I am very grateful for the consideration shown me by the Council during the year and wish to thank all the staff of the Public Health Department, in particular Mr. J. Mullin, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose assistance is so readily available to me.

L. A. MATHESON.

General Statistics

Area—8,271 acres.

Population (Estimated Mid 1954) .....	.....	.....	41,050
Number of Houses, Bungalows and Flats at 1.4.54 .....	.....	.....	11,439
Rateable Value at 1.4.54 .....	.....	.....	£419,367
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1.4.54 .....	.....	.....	£1,685

Summary of Vital Statistics

Live Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	337	329	666
Illegitimate	17	13	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	354	342	696
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate (per thousand population) 16.9

Comparability factor is 0.96, giving adjusted birth rate of 16.3

Birth Rate England and Wales 15.2

Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	5	7	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate (per thousand population) 0.3

Still Birth Rate England and Wales 0.36

Deaths

<i>Male</i>	.....	174
<i>Female</i>	.....	146
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		320
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population) .....	.....	7,8
Comparability factor is 1.11, giving adjusted death rate of .....	.....	8.7
Death Rate England and Wales .....	.....	11.3
Deaths from Maternal Causes .....	.....	nil
Infant Deaths under one year .....	.....	13
Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand live births) .....	.....	18.7
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales .....	.....	25.5

Provision of Hospitals and Clinics in the Area During 1954

Hospitals:

Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.
Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines.

Chest Clinic:

Chest Clinic, Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc.:

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses:

“The Grange”, Gresham Road, Staines.
The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford.
Laleham Village Hall, Laleham.
Stanwell Village Hall, Stanwell.

Notifiable Diseases

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended.

Tuberculosis

Twenty-nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. A chart showing the age and sex distribution of the notifications and deaths is appended.

Infectious Diseases Notified during 1954

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	15	7	—	—	26
Whooping Cough	6	24	24	35	4	1	—	94
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	6	16	18	50	1	1	1	93
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & Over		Total	
Acute pneumonia	—	—	3	2	—		5	
Dysentery	9	7	—	4	—		20	
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	1	—	—		1	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—		—	
Food poisoning	1	3	2	—	1		7	

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFICATIONS DEATHS

Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	.....	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic disease	.....	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	.....	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	.....	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infections	.....	Nil	Nil
Acute poliomyelitis	.....	Nil	Nil
Measles	.....	Nil	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	Nil	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	5	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	17	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	Nil	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	Nil	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	16	17
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	.....	Nil	Nil
Diabetes	.....	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	15	19
Coronary disease, angina	.....	25	20
Hypertension with heart disease	.....	3	Nil
Other heart disease	.....	24	29
Other circulatory disease	.....	9	8
Influenza	.....	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	.....	5	9
Bronchitis	.....	11	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	2	Nil
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	Nil	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	3	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	6	Nil
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	Nil	Nil
Congenital malformations	.....	Nil	Nil
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	15	12
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	4	1
All other accidents	.....	5	5
Suicide	.....	2	1
Homicide and operation of war	.....	Nil	Nil
		174	146

INFANT DEATHS

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

During 1954, no formal action was taken under this Act to secure the compulsory removal of persons to hospital or other residential care. Several difficult cases arose, however, but were satisfactorily concluded by tact and persuasion which undoubtedly is a method to be preferred in view of the possibly deleterious effect on the mental condition of the person concerned by compulsory removal. In the majority of cases, there were in addition to lack of physical well-being, varying degrees of mental instability or senility, which made them more difficult to deal with

A man, semi-vagrant, dirty and suffering from a disease of one foot, spent a lot of time in the streets and gave offence to residents and shop and cafe proprietors; he was persuaded after numerous attempts to enter hospital for treatment which was successful. He was discharged after several months, fit for light work. A lady resident at an Almshouse was incontinent and her accommodation and personal belongings were in a filthy condition. She was persuaded to enter hospital, and all her belongings were destroyed. Three other cases of old people receiving insufficient care in their own homes were persuaded to accept accommodation in hospital or a home. In another case, the person remained at home and is under the supervision of the County Council Mental Health Officer.

The District Nurses carry on excellent and untiring work throughout the district and their endeavours enable old persons to remain in their own homes for many years after they would otherwise have to be found residential accommodation; this is a most humane and desirable part of the Health Service. The efforts of the Area Welfare Officer and his staff in arranging residential accommodation for old people from this district are appreciated; this difficult and frequently unpleasant task is invariably carried out efficiently, yet in a kindly and considerate manner in the best interests of the person concerned. This problem is one of increasing magnitude and will continue to exercise the thoughts of many for some time to come.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.

This Act requires the Council to make arrangements for the burial of a deceased person where no arrangements are being made by relatives. Usually this occurs where elderly people living alone have died at home. Where the death occurs in hospital or in an institution, that authority makes the arrangements.

Two burials were arranged; one of a still birth found in a gravel pit, and one of an elderly man who lived alone.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 to prohibit the sale of milk suspected of causing disease.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during 1954, but seven unrelated cases were notified. In none of these cases was it possible to ascertain the source of infection despite full bacteriological investigation and inquiries at the home.

The need for emphasis on personal hygiene among food handlers continues, and there is a need for wider knowledge among proprietors and employees of shops and catering establishments of the simple rules to prevent danger of food poisoning from the storage and handling of those foods most liable to cause food infections.

I would again draw attention to the possibility of food poisoning through the eating of duck eggs, particularly in view of the fact that duck eggs are a popular food.

It is officially recommended that duck eggs are not safe unless immersed in boiling water and boiled for 15 minutes. No duck eggs, either alone or mixed with hen eggs, should be used except for the preparation of food requiring a long period of cooking at a high temperature. There is obvious danger in the use of duck eggs in such lightly cooked or uncooked foods as mayonnaise, custards, custard fillings, meringues, etc., as the low temperature may lead to an increase in the number of organisms which might result in a serious outbreak of food poisoning. Following research by the Ministry of Health it has been noted that in one particular form of food poisoning of common occurrence, one third of the cases was proved or strongly suspected as having been caused by duck eggs.

I would like to record my appreciation of the assistance given me when making food poisoning investigations by the staff of the Public Health Laboratory Services at Colindale and at Epsom, and also the valuable co-operation afforded me by the staff at Ashford Hospital.

Water

There has been no change in the water supply, almost the whole of the area is supplied by the South West Suburban Water Company, a few houses in the Laleham Ward adjacent to Chertsey Bridge are supplied by the West Surrey Water Company, and part of Colnbrook is supplied by the Borough of Slough Water Undertaking. All these supplies continue to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Regular samples for chemical analysis are taken by the suppliers' engineers both of raw water and of treated water going into the mains. Bacteriological examinations are also made and the Council's staff take check samples of mains water. All these samples have been reported satisfactory. The water has no plumbo-solvent action and there was no contamination during the year of pipe supplies.

Twenty-three houses have stand-pipes for water supply. Nearly all of these will be demolished during 1955 as part of the programme for dealing with unfit houses

The following is a copy of a report on a sample of water from the South-West Suburban Water Company's mains submitted for examination during 1954.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance: Bright with very few mineral particles.

		Turbidity	.....	Less than 3
Colour .....	.....	7	Odour	..... Nil
pH .....	.....	7.5	Free Carbon Dioxide	..... 9
Electric Conductivity	540		Total Solids	..... 360
Chlorine present as			Alkalinity as	
	Chloride	27	Calcium Carbonate	205
Hardness: Total	270.		Carbonate	205.
			Non-carbonate	65.
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.4		Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000		Oxygen Absorbed	..... 0.80
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.020		Residual Chlorine	..... 0.05
Metals .....	.....	absent		

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	1 per ml.	2 per ml.	2 per ml.

	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bridge Street,
Staines.

June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit this report on the ninth year of my service with your Council.

The year saw the end of meat rationing and a return to the pre-war practice of local slaughtering of fresh meat. Arrangements for the improvement and re-licensing of slaughter-houses had to be made at short notice and I feel it is a matter for regret that after fourteen years of central control of slaughtering it should be returned to the unsatisfactory conditions of private slaughterhouses. In my view a long-term plan for the siting of slaughterhouses could have been worked out by the Ministry of Food, and this plan could have been ready for the time when control was brought to an end.

Elsewhere in this report I refer to some of the difficulties experienced during meat inspection. It is to be hoped that when the final report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Slaughter-houses is made, more permanent arrangements can be made and a public abattoir will be provided to serve the area.

The pressure of meat inspection duties meant that your staff had less time for routine inspections and it remains to be seen whether slaughtering will continue at its present level.

Following a preliminary survey of unfit houses the Council agreed to a programme sufficient to deal with the estimated number of unfit houses within the next five years. The district is largely one of houses built within the last thirty or forty years, and the number of unfit properties is therefore relatively small.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into force at the end of August, and although it is too soon to speak with experience of the working of its provisions, there was by the end of the year no indication that this Act was going to make any real contribution towards solving the problem of getting repairs done to the older, lower rented houses. It became apparent that property owners were

not availing themselves of the opportunity to increase rents, and this I believe to be due to two reasons, firstly because many have not spent the required amounts on repairs during the prescribed periods to enable them to qualify for an increase in rent, and secondly because it was not thought worthwhile raising the rents for the increased rent obtainable.

The Council agreed to operate the improvement grant scheme, but by the end of the year few applications had been received and these mainly from owner/occupiers for the addition of bathrooms. The majority of these were approved.

This report affords me the opportunity to express my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by the members of the Council, to express my thanks for the co-operation of the Officers, and in particular to Dr. L. A. Matheson, and finally to thank your staff whose work this report illustrates.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MULLIN.

Housing Statistics.

1.	Number of new houses erected during 1954:-	
	By the Local Authority .....	..... 27
	By a Housing Association .....	..... 71
	By other persons .....	..... 338
2.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	..... 1089
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2039
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 —
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	..... 11
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	..... 157

3 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 114

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 2

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 148

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 56

(b) By local authority in default of owners 12

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 11

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 11

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made —



Examples of houses surveyed under the Housing Acts and likely to be dealt with as unfit for habitation.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Housing Act, 1949.					
Closing Orders made under Section 3(1) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953					—
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Overcrowding.

Two statutorily overcrowded families were rehoused by the Council during 1954, and there are forty-seven families totalling two hundred and thirty-four persons who are statutorily overcrowded.

This is an increase of nineteen overcrowded families since last year. The reason for such an increase is that whilst fewer new houses became available for letting during 1954, there was a demand for houses for rehousing families from property subject to demolition orders and from houses derequisitioned by the Council.

In these circumstances, families who have been for some years on the Council's waiting list for a house have in some cases had other children, or young children have attained the age of ten years and consequently count as a whole unit for the purpose of overcrowding.

While the statutory demands for houses continues for the purpose of slum clearance and derequisitioning and the supply of new houses remains small, it is inevitable that overcrowding will increase; the standards of overcrowding are at present so low, that any family living in overcrowded conditions is doing so at risk to its own and to the public's health.

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

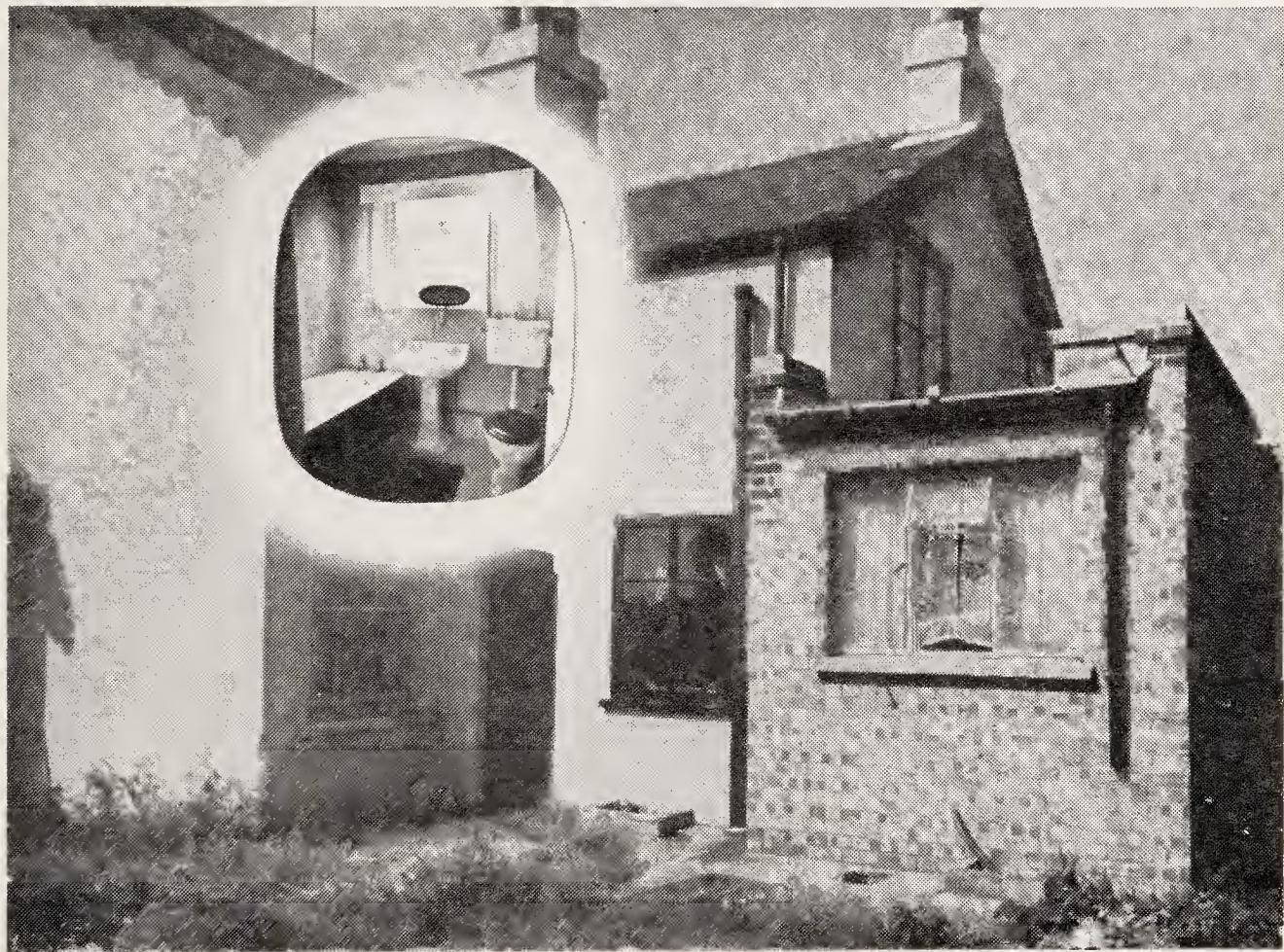
Certificates of Disrepair.

This Act enables owners of houses to increase rents provided the conditions as to the state of repair and the amount spent on repairs by the owner are met. The Act came into force at the end of August, 1954, and resulted in a number of inquiries from owners and tenants, although this was much less than anticipated.

The Council may issue a certificate of disrepair on the application of a tenant where the tenant has been served with a notice of increase by the owner. This certificate when issued has the effect of preventing the owner from obtaining an increase of rent until works specified on the certificate are carried out, when the certificate can be revoked. Twelve applications for certificates were granted, the majority of these were revoked after completion of repairs.

Improvement Grants.

In May, 1954, the Council approved in principle the making of improvement grants under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, and decided that each application should be considered on its merits. The publicity given in the press to this matter resulted in a number of inquiries but by the end of the year there had been five applications for grants. These were mainly for the provision of bathrooms and hot water supply to older houses and all were approved. Four of the applicants were owner occupiers. The Sanitary Inspectors are advising owners of the provisions with a view to older properties being improved and modernised.



Cottage improved by addition of bathroom. The Council made a grant under the Housing Act, 1949, of £100 towards the cost.

Summary of Inspections.

Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	.....	2039
Improvement Grants .....	.....	24
Certificates of Disrepair .....	.....	21
Overcrowding .....	.....	53
Food Premises .....	.....	757
Slaughterhouses .....	.....	823
Pet Animals Act .....	.....	11
Massage and Chiropody Premises .....	.....	8
Cesspools .....	.....	353
Drainage Works .....	.....	393
Drain Testing .....	.....	31
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regns., 1953 .....	.....	21
Factories and Outworkers .....	.....	187
Smoke Abatement .....	.....	42
Rodent Control (includes visits by Rodent Staff) .....	.....	2348
Vermin .....	.....	110
Keeping of Animals and Poultry .....	.....	153
Water Supplies .....	.....	67
Infectious Diseases .....	.....	87
Offensive Trades .....	.....	64
Caravans .....	.....	274
Places of Public Entertainment .....	.....	38
Shops Act .....	.....	190
Hawkers .....	.....	41
Public Conveniences .....	.....	78
Schools .....	.....	28
River Pollution .....	.....	24
Refuse Deposits .....	.....	136
Hairdressers .....	.....	29
Miscellaneous .....	.....	152
		8582
		—

Number of Notices Served:

		<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 .....	.....	9	3
Public Health Act, 1936 .....	.....	148	50
Shops Act, 1950 .....	.....	1	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 .....	.....	39	—
Factories Act, 1937 .....	.....	11	—
		—	—
		208	53
		—	—

Legal Proceedings

Proceedings were taken on three occasions against the owners of two houses of which the basement rooms were subject to Closing Orders. Fines were imposed for allowing the rooms to be used in contravention of the Orders, and in each case the owners appealed to the Middlesex Court of Appeal. The appeals were dismissed. Further appeals were made to the County Court against the Council's refusal to determine the Closing Orders; these also were dismissed, the Council being awarded costs. Proceedings under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, were taken in one case and the Court made an order for compliance within twenty-eight days.

A conviction was obtained in one case for the depositing of refuse in an unmade road.

The Council issued a summons against a large dairy firm for supplying milk in a bottle which had not been properly cleansed. This failed because of a weakness in the Milk Regulations, since the Council could not prove the milk had been bottled in an area within the jurisdiction of the Middlesex Magistrates.

Drainage and Sewerage

Sewage is treated at the West Middlesex Main Drainage works at Mogden.

A small extension of one sewer to serve existing premises was carried out during 1954, and continued progress was made in the abolition of cesspools at twenty-one houses where a sewer was available. In the majority of these cases, the owners availed themselves of the facilities offered by the Council for spreading the cost of such connections over a period of years. This brings the total number of cesspools abolished since the enlargement of the area in 1930 and 1934 to 4,634.

During 1955, it is anticipated that work will be commenced on the provision of main drainage in the Stanwell area and the relaying of sewers in part of Staines; wider powers are necessary for Local Authorities to compel owners of property to connect the drainage of houses to a sewer where one is available.

Refuse

The collection and disposal of domestic refuse within the Urban District is dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor. The new refuse destructor at Charlton came into use during November 1954 and all the refuse from this area is now disposed of there. The plant is used in conjunction with the Sunbury and Twickenham Councils.

As more of the unmade roads in the area are becoming paved, so are the places becoming fewer where unwanted garden and domestic refuse can be dumped by irresponsible people. More often than not the rubbish which can unfortunately frequently be found on land in the district is not of a nature likely to create a public health nuisance, and the powers of the Council are somewhat limited in regard to requiring its removal.

Almost inevitably it falls to the Council, as an expense to the rate-payers, to remove the rubbish if only to prevent the establishment of a tip.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Food Premises:

The number of food premises in the area, by type, and the number of inspections are as follows:

		No. of Premises.	No. of Inspections.
Slaughterhouses	.....	4	823
Butchers	.....	30	81
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	.....	38	138
Bakers and Confectioners	.....	14	46
Grocers	.....	85	123
Greengrocers	.....	33	41
Licensed Premises	.....	39	35
Off-licences	.....	8	12
Sweets and Tobacco	.....	39	76
Wet and Fried Fish	.....	14	83
Dairies	.....	6	38
Wholesale Warehouses	.....	3	25
Works Canteens	.....	6	20
School Kitchens	.....	15	36
Mineral Water Manufacturer	.....	1	3
		335	1,580

		Butchers	Kitchens	Other Food Premises
Premises cleansed	—	7	15
Ventilation provided	—	2	1
Hot water supply provided	—	3	5
Floors and walls cleansed	—	6	8
Lighting improved	—	1	—
Other improvements	—	1	3

Food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) Ice Cream Manufacturer	.....	.....	1
(b) Sale of Ice Cream	.....	.....	125
(c) Sausage Manufacturers	.....	.....	19
(d) Fish Friers	.....	.....	7

Food premises registered under Section 11 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1950.

(a) Personal registration of Hawkers	.....	49
(b) Registration of Hawkers' Premises where food is stored	14

Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	6
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The following foods, examined by your Inspectors in the various types of food premises, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

1,715 canned foods	5 stone skate
92 rabbits	231 lbs. cheese
155 lbs. pork	3 lbs. ground almonds
1,874 lbs. bacon and ham	13 lbs. sultanas
1,098 lbs beef	6 lbs biscuits
15 lbs. pork sausages	124 lbs. sweets and chocolates
1 lb. beef sausages	240 chocolate bars
63 lbs. oxtails	21 lbs milk powder
3 chickens	55 lbs. apricots
194 lbs. pigs plucks	86 lbs. dried figs
12 lbs. tongue	340 lbs. pearl barley
22 stone fish	57 1-lb. jars damson jam
3 stone dog fish	62 lbs. frozen rabbit

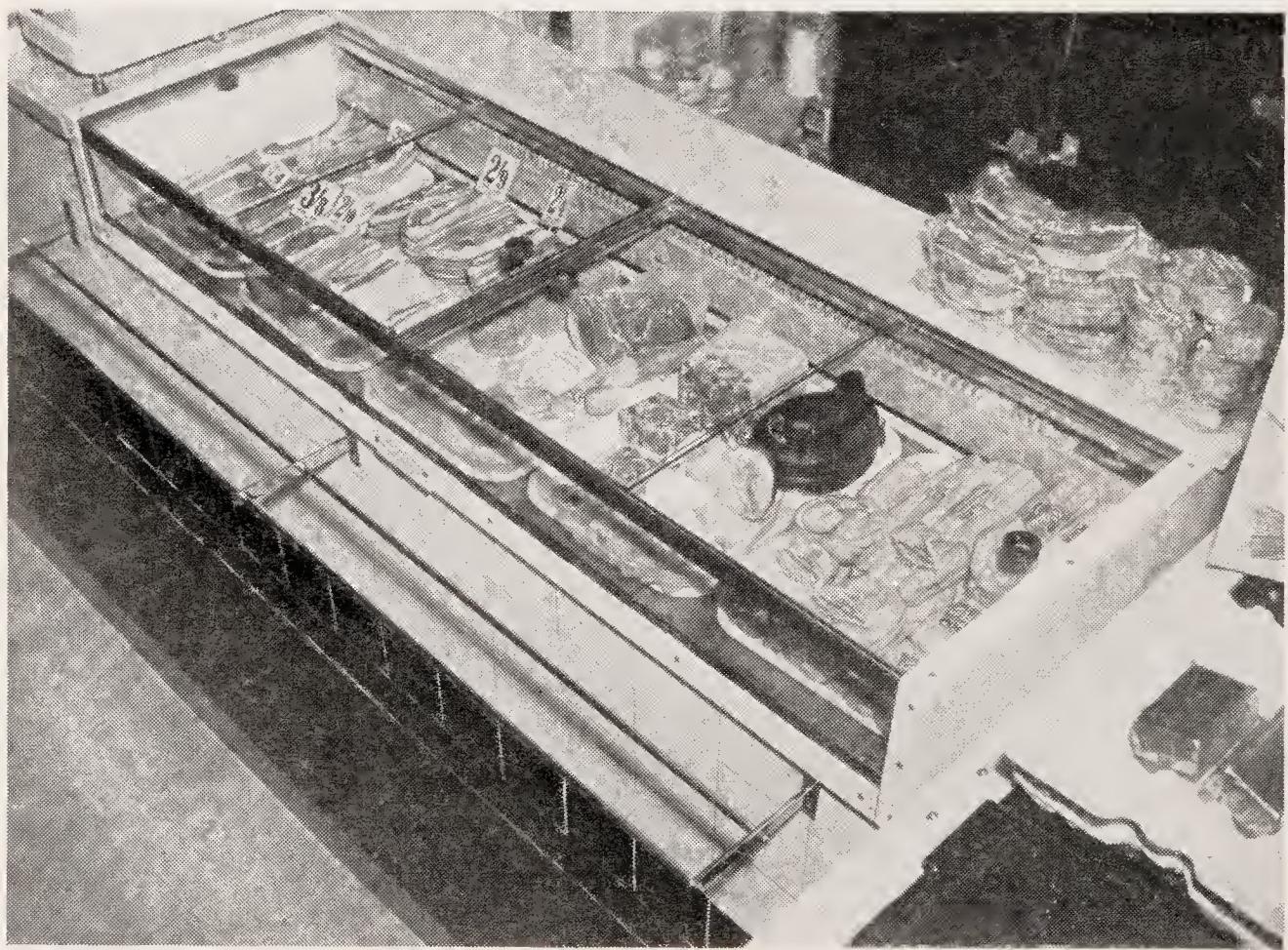
Food Hygiene.

Your staff continued their efforts to raise the standard of food hygiene in restaurants, cafes and shops. The difficulty in getting employees to attend food hygiene lectures and demonstrations has been mentioned in previous reports, and emphasis continued therefore on pointing out wrong practices to food handlers at the time of the Inspector's visit. This method of practical demonstration is believed to be of far more value and to have more lasting effect.

A new self-service shop including several food trades was opened during the year. The proprietor of this business sought the advice



Modern butchers shop showing refrigerated display of fresh meat.



Hygienic refrigerated display of cooked and processed Meats.

of this Department on hygienic layout and equipment and the shop does include a number of features which one would like to see included in other premises. A photograph of this store shows refrigerated meat display.

There are five schools with kitchens in the area supplying some 3,000 school meals daily. A full inspection of these kitchens was carried out. Most of the kitchens are modern and well equipped and in general they are quite satisfactory. As might be expected where trained organisers are in charge, there is a good standard of food handling and the precautions necessary in large scale food preparation are understood.

Slaughtering and Inspection of Meat.

In anticipation of the derationing of meat in July, 1954, every Local Authority was requested to ensure that within their own area sufficient facilities existed for the slaughtering of animals. Despite the short notice available, enquiries were made at all the butchers shops in the District with a view to ascertaining where they were likely to obtain their supplies, and adjoining Authorities were consulted as to the availability of slaughterhouse facilities. Though most of the local retailers intended to continue procuring supplies from Smithfield Market and the multiple shops to have their buying done centrally, it had to be borne in mind that unless sufficient slaughterhouses were licensed there would not be enough home-killed meat at Smithfield Market.

Accordingly, after careful consideration, four slaughterhouses were licensed in the Staines Urban District. This compares with eleven in use immediately before the war. The four to which licences were granted had to carry out works of repair and improvement to put into satisfactory condition premises which had been virtually unused for some fourteen years

That the licensing of these slaughterhouses was justified is illustrated by the appended table indicating the numbers of animals slaughtered. It was the policy of the Ministry of Food that no new slaughterhouses should be licensed without Ministry approval; in each of these four cases the premises had been licensed before the war. Several applications were received from persons anxious to erect a slaughterhouse; none of these was recommended to the Ministry of Food for approval. There is little doubt that in the period between 1940 and 1954, there existed in the West of Middlesex a centre of operations for illicit trading in meat, and the conditions that obtained in the period immediately following derationing can best be understood in the light of such knowledge. In fact

the freeing of controls showed several traders who sought to continue their activities on a more permanent basis.

Accordingly, the inspection of meat at these slaughterhouses was



*One of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors inspecting a carcase
at a slaughterhouse.*

made difficult and burdensome by the exceedingly late hours involved in the work. Despite this the Department has maintained a one hundred per cent. inspection of all animals slaughtered in the district.

Towards the end of the year, these conditions tended to clarify themselves. Trading by certain dealers began to decline in the face of competition by established wholesale butchers, and slaughtering and meat inspection became more of a routine though there remained late evening work on four nights of the week and during Sunday which appears to be inevitable in the trade in order to fit in with the time of live markets and delivery either to Smithfield Market or to butchers' shops within or outside the district. It was necessary, therefore, to arrange for the Sanitary Inspectors to work a rota of overtime and Sunday duty for this purpose, the average for the Department being sixty to seventy hours a month between three Inspectors.

In addition to the work of inspection, the Council agreed that the Inspectors shall act as Certifying Officers for the Ministry of Food for the deadweight certification of pigs. This work adds to the time spent at the slaughterhouses and considerably to the subsequent clerical work in the office. Though a payment is made by the Ministry to the Council in respect of these duties, it is felt that it is insufficient recompense for the time involved.

In November, 1954, the position with regard to slaughtering had become sufficiently clear for the Council to submit a resolution to the Ministry of Food under the terms of Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, to the effect that the slaughtering facilities available in the District were adequate. Only one objection was received, and that from a reputable and well-established firm of butchers in the District who sought to protect their position in regard to the supply of good-class meat

From the Public Health point of view there is no doubt that slaughtering should be carried out in as few premises as possible, a view endorsed by the Interdepartmental Committee who have recommended throughout the country, as a long term policy, one of moderate concentration of slaughtering. There is no doubt from recent experience that this Urban District needs such facilities and it is to be hoped that as soon as practicable an abattoir will be provided.

At the present time, apart from slaughtering on fixed days at fixed times, notification must be given at least three hours prior to slaughter and the carcase must be kept at the slaughterhouse at least three hours after slaughter or six hours after the time of notification, whichever is the later; if time of slaughter is after 7.0 p.m. then the carcase must be kept till at least 7.0 a.m. for the purpose of inspection. For the purpose of inspection, a Sanitary Inspector has power to detain a carcase for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours. In

some cases, bacteriological or microscopic examination is desirable but the process of such examination is normally too long to be of much practical assistance to the Inspector, particularly as the nearest Public Health Laboratory is at Epsom, a distance of some twenty miles. In this connection, however, the Department is fortunate in enjoying very happy relations with the staff of the Pathological Laboratory at Ashford Hospital who not only have willingly given advice, but have given part-time instruction to the Sanitary Inspectors in laboratory technique. This assistance is greatly appreciated.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses.

A list is appended showing the number of animals killed, the carcasses inspected and details of carcasses condemned. The total number of animals killed from July, 1954, to the end of the year was 14,386.

Fuller details of the meat condemned have been reported to the Public Health Committee each month and records are available should they be required for statistical or other purposes

	<i>Cattle, excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	635	576	5608	1805	5802
Number inspected	635	576	5568	1805	5802
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	5	1	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	53	177	22	93	611
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.4	30.9	0.5	5.2	10.6
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	1	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	45	141	1	—	88
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.2	25.0	0.03	—	1.6

All condemned food, meat and offals is disposed of at a large factory in the area which treats bones and fats for industrial purposes.

Condemned meat is dyed green at the slaughterhouse, and the method of disposal is quite satisfactory.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

This district forms part of an area in which only heat-treated or designated milk is allowed to be sold. Regular samples are taken to

ensure that heat treatment has been efficiently carried out, and during the year 20 samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

There is one dairy in the district which pasteurises milk, and frequent inspections were made.

The Public Health Committee were again concerned by the number of complaints received of dirty milk bottles delivered to customers, and in January, 1954, they interviewed the manager of the firm concerned. Despite an assurance that all possible steps were being taken to avoid this, complaints continued. The Public Health Committee accordingly felt compelled to institute proceedings against the firm. The proceedings failed on the grounds that the Council was unable to prove that the milk was bottled in the area over which the Court had jurisdiction. Counsel's opinion confirmed that the Council was not likely to succeed in an appeal. Accordingly, the Ministry of Food were notified of an obvious defect in these Regulations which it is hoped will be amended.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

Most of the ice-cream sold in the district is now made by three large firms manufacturing on a national scale. Samples taken of these firms' products are usually satisfactory and for this reason attention was directed to sampling from vendors of ice-cream made by smaller firms whose quality is more inclined to vary. Twenty-eight samples were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. 82.1% of these were placed in Grades 1 and 2, and 17.9% in Grades 3 and 4. Ice-cream manufactured and served under hygienic conditions should be placed in Grades 1 or 2, and the good manufacturers find no difficulty in maintaining this standard.

Seventy-eight visits were made to ice-cream premises to check storage temperatures and methods of serving and handling ice-cream. Inspections continued of vendors selling from tricycles and other vehicles, particular attention being directed at the week-ends to ice-cream sold by vendors at Laleham where large crowds gather on the riverbank.

Middlesex County Council Act, 1950, Section 11.

Under this Act, hawkers of food are required to be registered with the Council, as are the premises where their food is stored. During the year ten applications were received in respect of personal registration, and one in respect of premises.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1954.

I am indebted to the Chief Officer, Public Control Department, Middlesex County Council, for the following report on duties under the Food and Drugs Act carried out by his Department:-

"During the year 1954, within the Urban District of Staines, 33 samples, of which 18 were milk, were submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and 7 of these samples were reported upon as unsatisfactory. In addition 134 samples, of which 47 were milk, were examined or tested by the officers of my Department and of these 5 samples were unsatisfactory.

The 11 samples of milk noted as unsatisfactory included one sample of bottled milk, slightly under 8.5% solids-not-fat, added water was not confirmed, and no further action was taken. The remaining 10 samples were of farmers' new milk, two farmers being involved. In each case there were slight deficiencies in fat and/or solids-not-fat. There was no added water. The farmers and the Milk Marketing Board were informed with a view to the quality of the milk (doubtless genuine) being improved. The last unsatisfactory sample was one of jam. It was unfit for human consumption and a warning was sent to the manufacturer

My Council, in pursuance of its powers as Food and Drugs authority, has also visited premises to ensure that the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953, are being complied with and in particular examined 452 displays of meat, apples, tomatoes, poultry and dried fruit. No infringements of any substance were discovered although, in a number of instances, minor errors were the subject of verbal advice or caution.

During the year one firm of dairymen held a licence as a dealer/processor of pasteurised milk. The premises were inspected regularly and within the boundary of Staines 19 samples were procured.

In addition to the foregoing, 26 samples of raw milk received from farmers were submitted to a pathological laboratory for test for tubercle bacilli."

The Food and Drugs Act, 1954, was enacted during the year, the main force of which will not become apparent until Regulations to be made under the Act are published. There has been wide criticism in the press and elsewhere regarding the draft regulations both from the trades concerned and from public health officers; latest developments indicate that the Regulations are not to be as satisfactory from the public health officers' view point as they could be.

The Middlesex County Council is the food and drugs Authority for the purpose of sampling, etc., for the whole of the County.

I would like to repeat my statement in last year's report that this service would be administered at far less cost and certainly no less efficiently if this Council was the Authority for this part of the Food and Drugs Act.

Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupier prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.s	13	12	1	..
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	222	121	5	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	237	133	6	—

Cases in which Defects Were Found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.	By H.M.	Inspector Inspector	cases in which prose- cutions were In- stituted.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drainage on floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—						
(a) insufficient	2	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	6	—	2	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences, not includ- ing offences relating to Homework	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	13	7	1	2	—	—

Outworkers:

There are 12 out-workers in the Area, nearly all making wearing apparel.

Shops Act, 1950.

One hundred and ninety visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the administration of this Act, which deals with general closing hours of shops, statutory half-holidays and meal times for shop assistants, Sunday employment and Sunday trading, hours of employment of young persons and arrangements for health and comfort of shop workers. In addition to these visits the provisions of the Shops Act are borne in mind by your Inspectors in the course of visits to shops for other purposes, but these are not recorded as separate visits.

Moveable Dwellings.

The Council continued the policy of restricting the number of caravans in the district to a minimum. A number of applications to occupy motor trailer caravans were received and temporary consents were given only in cases where hardship would have been caused by refusal. There is no doubt that had it not been for this policy and the use of the provisions of the Middlesex County Council Act a large caravan population would have developed in postwar years. It does seem that there is now an appreciable number of families, particularly those without children, who prefer to occupy a modern caravan on a site with reasonable amenities rather than live in rooms, and there are some who would prefer a caravan to a house even if a house were available, possibly for the reason that the occupation of a modern trailer caravan cuts down housework and enables both husband and wife to be employed.

There are forty-one occupied caravans on approved sites or singly on land or in gardens adjacent to houses. The majority of these are owned by the occupiers and have satisfactory sanitary facilities.

Throughout the year your Inspectors continued to prevent the establishment of caravan sites on waste land and on roadside verges by persons of the vagrant type. This was sometimes difficult and unpleasant, but very necessary in view of the nuisance caused to residents by the habits and behaviour of such persons

Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949.

The Council employs an Assistant Rodent Officer who is provided with an 8 h.p. van to enable him to transport his equipment, baits and poisons and to cover the whole district of over 8,000 acres efficiently.

During the year he has been supplied with an extending aluminium ladder for dealing with wasp's nests, etc., in roofs.

Treatment is carried out free at private houses and, as in former years, the majority of the infestations dealt with are connected with the keeping of domestic poultry or of pig-breeding. One formal and six informal notices were served under the Act requiring the execution of work to remove harbourage for rats.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers again showed that they were almost free from rat infestation, so much so, that this treatment does not now appear to be repaid by results.

The following is a summary of inspections, etc., carried out by the Assistant Rodent Officer:

Number of properties inspected .....	.....	1120
Number of properties found to be infested by rats .....	.....	423
Number of dwelling houses treated .....	.....	476
Number of businesss premises treated .....	.....	56
Total number of visits and revisits .....	.....	4445

Other Pests

The Council has also dealt during the year with wasps' nests, mosquito breeding on ponds, ants in private houses, hospitals and bakeries, bed-bug infestations, wood boring insects, and other domestic pests. The advice of the Sanitary Inspectors is frequently sought by people in the area to identify and recommend treatment for eradication of many different kinds of insect pests.

The willing and expert advice obtained from the Entomological Department of the British Museum in this regard is freely acknowledged.

Offensive Trades.

There is one large factory carrying on the offensive trades of fat extraction and bone boiling. This is subject to frequent inspection and the firm carried out improvements to the plant and relaid internal roads and paving.

A contractor is employed to deal with rat infestation and as a routine measure bones and offal awaiting processing are sprayed with an insecticide to prevent fly breeding. There is on occasion some smell from the works but there has been no serious nuisance and standards generally are greatly improved.

One application was received for the trade of gut scraping in a building on the site of a slaughterhouse and approval was given for the period of the slaughterhouse licence.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

This legislation has proved effective. By early 1954, virtually no gas, electric or oil space heating appliances were on sale anywhere in the district unless they were supplied with an adequate guard.

Public Conveniences.

The Sanitary Inspectors make regular inspections of the public conveniences situated throughout the district. It is regretted that these buildings are the subject of a great deal of misuse and vandalism.

Despite this fact, however, the Council have agreed to provide improved amenities, including washing facilities, at new conveniences which are intended to be erected. These facilities will enable vendors of food, etc., to wash whilst on their rounds.